

MARK MEADOWS
11TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1024 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6401

200 NORTH GROVE STREET, SUITE 90
MENDERSOHNVILLE, NC 28792
(828) 693-5660

www.house.gov/meadows

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3311

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
H – 305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
H – 305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2018

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As your subcommittee considers the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, I respectfully request that the language reported by the subcommittee match the President's fiscal year 2019 budget request and provide the full funding of \$149 million for the National Park Service's construction account which includes \$20 million for the ongoing settlement agreement between the federal government and Swain County in North Carolina.

By way of background, in February 2010, a settlement was reached in a dispute that began in 1943 over a proposed 34-mile stretch of road through Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Under the terms of the agreement signed by the Department of the Interior, Swain County, North Carolina, and Tennessee Valley Authority, the Department of the Interior agreed to pay up to \$52 million into a trust fund established for the County. Under the settlement, the Department of Interior was to pay Swain County \$4 million from the Department of 2010 Defense Appropriations Act in lieu of not living up to its promise to construct the North Shore Road and an additional \$8.8 million "at a future date." So, in 2010, the federal government paid out \$12.8 million to Swain County as outlined. The agreement also calls for the government to make future payments to Swain County to compensate for not completing the North Shore Road project. As you are aware, in September of 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke formally released \$4 million owed to Swain County as a part of the \$52 million agreement. According to the settlement, any additional money — not to exceed \$39.2 million — was to still be paid out before Dec. 31, 2020. Link to the 2010 agreement here:

<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/management/upload/NOrth%20Shore%20Road%202101%20AGREEMENT.pdf>

As you are aware, the President's fiscal year 2019 budget request included within the National Park Service construction account \$20 million for an ongoing settlement agreement with Swain County in North Carolina. The construction list can be found in the National Park Service's FY 2019 Budget Justification found here:

<https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/FY2019-NPS-Greenbook.pdf>; and in the Department of Interiors Budget in Brief found here: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2019_bib_c0001.pdf.

With this information in mind, I encourage you to match the President's requested amount for the National Park Service's construction account in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, thereby taking yet another important step to fulfill this long owed obligation. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Meadows
Member of Congress